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It seems that Germany never heard of the honor system.

The Germans continued their acts of warfare right up to the last chance.

If June has any more samples of weather in her carpet bag, we are not desirous of having them tried out on us.

James Duncan of the Granite Cutters' International association apparently still stands in line for the presidency of the American Federation of Labor as soon as Samuel Gompers and possibly one other get through with their official duties with that organization.

Vermont, and Northfield in particular, comes into prominence as the native town of the new president of the American Telephone & Telegraph company, H. B. Thayer, who succeeds Theodore N. Vail, having been the son of a bank man of that town. So the state maintains its distinction.

Another concerted bomb outrage was scheduled to take place on July 4, according to government agents in Washington, but the publicity given the reported plot may serve to keep the malefactors under cover. It is something new to publish the details of plots some two weeks in advance; and a sort of depression hangs over the plotters in consequence.

A virile, alert policy adopted by the United States government on the Mexican border will go far toward snuffing the life out of the threatening little events which Mexican rebel leaders are continually stirring up, to the discomfiture of the government at Washington and to the damage of the American residents along the border. "Watchful preparedness" will have the required effect in warning Villa and other aspirants for notoriety that the United States will not stand for any more of that sort of thing.

The noise which was let loose on Nov. 11, 1918, when the word flashed over the country at the signing of the armistice, might well be repeated at the word of the signing of the treaty by Germany. That word does not mark the official coming of peace because the opposing nations must attach their signatures to the document before the treaty becomes effective; but to all intents and purposes the war formally ends with the signing by Germany. Therefore, there will be good reason for the bells to ring in every American city, town and hamlet.

The late Wallace Batchelder of Bethel had been one of the most staunch supporters of Theodore Roosevelt in the state of Vermont ever since he served in Roosevelt's Rough Riders in the Spanish-American war, his loyalty being particularly marked during the presidential campaign of 1912 when Roosevelt was defeated for the Republican presidential nomination and ran on an independent ticket. Mr. Batchelder was a hard campaigner for his friend and former commander and was said to have been a very disappointed man over the outcome of the contest, as, of course, were many others. Mr. Batchelder's illness cut short a career which promised to be characterized by much of the vim and vigor of his old leader.

One of the odd outcroppings of the negotiations just conducted over the treaty of peace was the assertion by the German peace delegation that the terms fixed by the allies were impracticable and that they would sign under duress. The odd thing is that the Germans should consider themselves signing, in any other way than under duress. The treaty is not of Germany's framing, of course, and were Germany acting under her free will she would not sign any kind of a treaty which did not give herself control of a large share of the world. The statement that Germany would sign under duress is, therefore, to be taken as a last, despairing effort on the part of the German delegation to make it appear that the treaty, excepting for the details specifically mentioned, was a treaty of negotiation rather than that imposed by the victor on the vanquished. The German mind is a curious combination of conceits, and the delusion that Germany was one of the negotiators for the peace is one of those conceits. They are trying hard "to save their face," so to speak.

THE GERMAN TREACHERY AT SCAPA FLOW.

The treachery of the German crews left in charge of the German warships in Scapa Flow might have been expected, judging by the history of the Germans throughout nearly five years of warfare. Yet German crews were left in charge of the German ships and with only a meagre guard of British ships while the major part of the British fleet was out on a training cruise. Thus left practically unguarded, the perfidious captives lost no time in scuttling the German warships and in making for shore in the best manner that was available to them. The loss of the warships will not be regretted by the allies to any extent, for the question of disposal of the ships had not been satisfactorily settled; but the ease with which the Germans perpetrated the trick will no doubt be a sore spot in the breasts of the allied leaders for some time. The incident serves to confirm the common idea of the faithlessness of the Germans at a time when the armistice was still in full force and when the allies were making concessions to the German nation in the terms of the treaty of peace. The German people are writing down some very black pages in history, and the incident of the scuttling of the surrendered ships makes another added stain on their reputation for being untrustworthy as a nation and as a people. The allies are dealing with an entirely irresponsible nation, capable of going to any length to carry out their program of expediency.

Young Couples on Farms.

The Rutland Herald has joined The Reformer and the Bennington Banner in suggestions for the improvement of rural conditions in Vermont. This nearly completes the list of southern Vermont dailies committed to a discussion of this subject and should aid in getting this subject seriously considered by the people of this end of the state. The Herald offers this suggestion:

"What we need in Vermont more than anything else is a few thousand ambitious, not too highfalutin, and constitutionally hardworking young men and women—in couples—who are courageous enough to take a dormant farm, with its rundown acres and buildings, its mustard, paint-brush, daisies or whatever pest it last yielded to, and to go to making a regular home for two and what follows after.

It can be done, although winning a home out of a wilderness of weeds and neglect is next door to hewing it out of the virgin forest, with perhaps a few odds on the forest.

"Legislation certainly won't give us these boys and girls, but education and common sense will go a great way in that direction. Watch the Vermont farms grow as the Vermont families grow—within the next few years."

Evidently The Herald does not agree with The Reformer that the most promising field for improvement is on the good farms of the state but thinks it is on the "rundown acres." The rundown acres certainly do not offer the attractions of a good farm, good buildings and good equipment both indoors and out. They call for pioneering and all its denials and young couples to-day are not thirsting for pioneering. As The Herald says, in the dormant farm problem the profits are apt to be small and hard work is a very positive and reliable factor.

We maintain that farming on a good farm is more profitable, more comfortable, more intelligent and more satisfactory. We believe that Vermonters should turn their attention to securing the proper human equipment for its good farming lands and let the dormant farms remain dormant until the conditions favor their profitable development. There is no better equipment for good farms than ambitious, constitutionally hard working young men and women; and, if they possess the sound judgment necessary for success, they will not pass the most desirable farms for dormant or rundown acres.

Can't the three dailies of southern Vermont form a triumvirate in the championship of good farmers for good farms in Vermont?—Brattleboro Reformer.

CURRENT COMMENT

A Promise of Cheap Meat.

According to the prediction of some wholesalers, meat will be down to a pre-war basis in the fall. Steaks that cost 35 to 40 cents a pound will be obtainable at the old-time rate of 18 to 20 cents. Leather and shoes may be dearer. At first glance there may appear to be no relationship between the two, but as matters stand the cheapness of meat will be largely the effect of the dearness of leather. The reason for it is this—cattle raisers, under the stimulus of high prices, have been raising cattle at an enormous rate, until there are more cattle in the country than ever before. This might account for cheaper meat, but, following the law of supply and demand, it should also account for cheaper leather. That law is at work rightly enough, as is its corollary that high prices stimulate production and reduce consumption and vice-versa.

As already stated, high prices have stimulated the production of cattle while reducing the consumption of beef. Hides, and therefore leather, should be in plentiful supply, but even so the demand exceeds it, for the demand for leather from this country was never so great. America is being called upon to supply the world's markets for shoes formerly supplied by Germany and the demand is insistent. Conditions are being reversed and cattle are likely to be slaughtered not for their beef, but for their hides. Leather is so dear that beef can be sold cheaper to stimulate the consumption and thus increase the supply of hides. Economic laws sometimes criss-cross in unexpected ways, but their effects are inevitable.—New York Commercial.

Back to Plain "Mister."

The more that is heard of the plans and personnel of the American Legion, the organization of soldiers who fought in the great war, the more general the popular approval. Its leaders seem to be guided by sound common sense. One feature that stands out is its sturdy democracy. This was shown at the initial meeting in St. Louis. No distinctions were drawn between those who had been officers and those who had served as privates in the ranks. The differences that were necessary, and so recognized, during the period of active service, were promptly cast aside when these brave men met in civil life. Now comes word that the executive committee of the legion will recommend to the forthcoming national convention at Minneapolis the disuse of all military titles in referring to officials of the order. "It is the purpose of the American Legion," says Henry D. Lindsey, "not only to cease using military titles in the records and proceedings of the national organization, but to foster the same action on the part of state branches and local posts which are now being formed throughout the country. Furthermore, the custom handed down from the Civil war of preserving an officer's military rank after he had returned to civil life will be discouraged."

That last remark indicates a radical departure from American customs, but a wholesome one. It will tend also to discourage the reprehensible habit of attaching military titles to persons who never had the slightest claim to them. One is reminded in this connection of the British general who, upon the occasion of Colonel House's first visit to London after we entered the war, sought his expert opinion on certain military problems. It would be refreshing should the American Legion succeed in carrying out the reform which its executive committee now favors.—Pittsburg Chronicle Telegraph.

Vermont's Maple Industry.

We are told that the average price for maple sugar in Vermont this season was 22 cents a pound. That, we suppose, was the price for sugar in bulk. But many maple sugar makers made their sugar into neat and attractive cakes that sold at retail for 50 cents a pound. That shows the value of complying with demand in preparing products for the market. We do not beleive the demand for these cakes at 50 cents a pound was filled and that twice the amount sold at that rate this year can be marketed next season if the farmers will produce it. Every progressive maple sugar producer should begin now to prepare for next year's business and sell as much of his sugar as possible at these high and profitable rates. It is not enough to master the art of making good sugar, the most advanced methods of marketing it are necessary to reach the maximum of success in Vermont maple sugar.

The writer saw a few weeks ago at the railroad station of the manufacturer several hundred pounds of sugar and syrup produced on the farm of a Vermont editor (also a good advertiser and business man) being shipped to different points in Michigan, Wisconsin, Florida, California and some other states. We do not know the price secured for this superfine production but will wage that 22 cents did not nearly cover it. Editor Whitehill of Waterbury could give Vermonters some very good points on marketing sugar, if he will. The editor from Waterbury is interrogated.—Brattleboro Reformer.

Internal Strains.

The proposed repeal of daylight-saving gives the Washington correspondent of the Boston Transcript abundant ground for saying that a new dividing line must be recognized between East and West. "The West is asserting itself in legislation as never before. The farmer is exercising a grip on Congress which can be regarded as little short of merciless."

There is, of course, a general feeling that prosperity comes with successful crops. Because of this, the western farmer can claim the sympathy of disinterested citizens in all his legitimate demands. But the producers of the crops have an ever-increasing political and economic power, and there is growing a disposition on their part to make use of this power. How much strength the industrial East could muster in Congress against the agricultural West, in case there were a sharp clash of interests, is a subject that, happily, need not be considered. The attitude of the South would be problematical. Probably no serious test will ever come. Certainly we all hope that it will not.

The farmer of the middle West for a long time regarded himself at the mercy of eastern capitalists and the railroads. And he still has fear of them. He also distrusts the packers and the millers. But he is no longer a mere voice of discontent. While much western political thought can fairly be characterized as liberal, we should not forget that most of the political reforms which are desired in the agricultural regions will benefit the farmers financially.

Not only the middle West, but the far West, is gaining in economic self-sufficiency as well as in population. It is demanding more attention at Washington. During the past week the Senate interstate commerce committee has been given hearings on Senator Poindexter's bill that would prohibit a lower freight rate for a long than for a short haul. Such a bill, intended to benefit communities west of the Rockies, might prove the entering wedge that would cause the rate structure of the nation to tumble down. Will the East, particularly New England, consent to give up its advantages under the present rate system? Probably not. When Robert W. Woolley of the interstate commerce commission proposed in his speech at Portland, Me., that the country should adopt a mileage basis for rates, his suggestions were at once attacked on the ground of their harmfulness to New England, and representatives of Massachusetts commercial organizations are now in Washington protesting against the amendment of the interstate commerce act proposed by Senator Poindexter.

Yet every section of the country cannot have everything it wants. Throughout the nation the conflict between capital and labor has been embittered by the attitudes of both sides during the past 10 years. But we are less aware of the growing stresses and strains between the vested interests of different sections. Besides these, there are sectional prejudices which may easily become political forces—such, for instance, as the anti-Japanese feeling in California.

Nationalism is a cry that is now on the lips of many persons. And a truly patriotic kind of nationalism is needed—a sentiment that impels Americans to think of their country as an economic unit, to take a reasonably modest view of their particular deserts, and to legislate for the good of the whole. Compromise in such an issue is no sign of moral weakness; it is a virtue and a necessity. The principles of competitive business cannot be applied to national questions without disaster.—Springfield Republican.